SUBJECTS.

Dewan's reply.—The increased rates of tariff valuation on copra and cocoanut oil and the levy of duty on oil-cake came into force only from Ani 1082. It is far too early to make any change. The rates have to be allowed a fair trial. The rates are limited to a period of three years. The export duty on bones will be retained.

51. Administration of State finances.

Mr. A. Govinda Menon (Member, Parur Taluk) prayed for a fair and equitable administration of the State finances, in the matter of collection and distribution. He said that the expenditure, under such heads, as education, agriculture, &c., was inadequate and should be increased; that agricultural farms should be established, the pay of the teachers of primary schools should be increased, and that technical education should be encouraged. He urged retrenchment as regards expenditure under Oottupuras and Devaswams, D. P. W. and Forest. To increase the revenues of the State, he suggested the levy of tax on all incomes except those of persons following the agricultural industry, the introduction of the municipal system in all the important towns and the imposition of municipal tax, the development of the fisheries so as to be a source of income to the State and its subjects, and the development of the salt industry. He also referred to the allotments made for public works in the different Divisions and said that this was being done without any regard to the revenue derived from the several Divisions or to their wants. He suggested that Government should allot annually for each Division a sum for minor works proportionate to its needs and its revenues and that the sum should be spent through a Board with the Division Peishkar as President and a certain number of officials and non-officials as members. If this was done, he said that 99 per cent. of the local questions which came up before the Assembly would disappear from it and that the people would seldom have room to complain of the neglect of their concerns.

Dewan's reply.—There are several suggestions which the member has made. Some of them are by no means unreasonable. If the member will put what he has said in writing and send it up, I shall peruse his views carefully and I have no doubt that some of the suggestions will be of help to me.

52. Removal of restriction on cultivation of tobacco and bhang.

Mr. Subramonia Karayalan (Member, Shencottah Taluk) requested that, in the interests of the tax-payers the restriction on land-owners from cultivating tobacco and bhang be removed.

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SUBJECTS.

Dewan's reply.—The question of allowing the local cultivation and manufacture of articles of monopoly is a difficult one. We shall have to be very careful to see that the public revenue does not suffer. If articles of monopoly are allowed to be cultivated within the State, that will require a lot of supervision, as otherwise we may lose revenue. Some time ago, Government issued orders to try ganja cultivation in the High Ranges and in selected places in South Travancore. We shall watch the experiment carefully and ascertain the results before proceeding further.

VI. Sanitation, Vital Statistics and Medical Relief.

53. Disposal of rubbish and night-soil of the town.

Mr. V. A. Ramakrishna Iyer (Member, Town Improvement Committee, Trivandrum) said that, with the funds allotted by Government, the Town Improvement Committee has not been able to do anything more than to organise a system of street sweeping and private scavenging, that the system in force for the disposal of rubbish and night-soil in towns was not satisfactory, that the rubbish was being allowed to accumulate in private compounds to the detriment of the public health and to the loss of municipal revenue, that the sites used for their deposit were inadequate and a source of considerable injury to the public health and that the Sanitary Commissioner had condemned the state of things, but had not proposed any definite scheme on the subject. To ensure a good system of sanitation in a town like Trivandrum, he suggested the construction of a number of latrines with self-acting flushes, the acquisition and maintenance of big compounds in the corners of the town for depositing rubbish and night-soil, and the adequate provision for dumping the same underground, so as to convert the whole into manure useful for agriculture. In view to carry out these measures, he proposed that Government might ask the Sanitary Commissioner to suggest definite and practical means.

Dewan's reply.—The matter is under correspondence between Government and the Town Improvement Committee. But if the member gets his fellow members of the Committee to agree with him, there is nothing to prevent them from sending up their proposals. We shall then consider them. If you require the advice of the Sanitary Commissioner, I shall send him over to help you.

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